**Motion to Condemn Bill 21**

**WHEREAS,** the principle of state secularism is designed to protect individual religious liberties, not restrict them;

**WHEREAS,** governments have used the veil of “secularism” to legitimize policy that is inherently racist and sexist;

**WHEREAS**, the CAQ’s “Act respecting the laicity of the State” (Bill 21) will limit both the employment opportunities and mobility of minority groups such as Muslims, Jews, Sikhs, and others;

**WHEREAS**, Jewish women wearing a mitpachat, Jewish men wearing a kippot, Muslim women wearing a hijab, niqab, or burqa, and Sikh men wearing a turban are all discriminated against by this bill;

**WHEREAS**, the hijab, niqab, or burqa are not symbols of oppression, and characterizing them as such is a vilification of Islam meant to limit women’s freedom to dress as they wish;

**WHEREAS,**  In accordance with section 2.1.1 of the Arts Undergraduate Society Constitution, “The AUS exists to represent all McGill students in the Faculty of Arts and to promote their welfare and interests”;

**WHEREAS,** religious pluralism is something to cherish, celebrate, and study, not restrict;

**WHEREAS**, this body moved to condemn the similar Bill 62 in the fall of 2017 (APPENDIX A);

**BE IT RESOLVED,** that the AUS publish the following statement:

“By resolution of its legislative council on April 3rd, The Arts Undergraduate Society (AUS) unequivocally condemns the Quebec National Assembly’s discriminatory and intolerant Bill 21, “An Act respecting the laicity of the State”. This legislation is an affront to religious freedoms and perverts the value of state secularism. Further, the AUS rejects the government’s claim that this is a compromise legislation, as there can be no compromise on issue of racism and sexism.

The AUS calls upon Principal Fortier, Provost Manfredi, and the McGill administration to stand with students and religious minorities in condemning this bill, both publicly and in their direct relations with the provincial government.

Par une résolution de son Conseil Législatif le 3 avril, l’Association Étudiante de la Faculté des Arts (AÉFA) condamne sans équivoque le projet de loi 21 discriminatoire de l’Assemblé National du Québec, << Loi sur la laïcité de l’État >>. Cette législation est un affront aux libertés religieuses et pervertit la valeur de la laïcité de l'état. De plus, l’AÉFA rejette l’affirmation du gouvernement que ce projet de loi s’agit d’un compromis, car il ne peut y avoir de compromis en matières de racisme et de sexisme

L’AÉFA demande à la Principale Fortier, Vice-président Manfredi, ainsi qu’à l'administration de l’université McGill de se tenir aux côtés des étudiants et des minorités religieuses en condamnant ce projet de loi, tant publiquement que dans le cadre de leurs relations directes avec le gouvernement provincial. ”

Moved by,

Josh Werber, RSUS VP External

Madeline Wilson, Arts Senator

Jennifer Chan, PSSA VP External

Khando Langri, ASA VP External

Mettannah Jacobson, JSSA VP External

Lily Yu, ASSA VP External

Anaïs Lépine Lopez, VP external QSSA

**APPENDIX A**

